



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Contact: Kevin Kerstein
Publicity Manager
Churchill Downs Racetrack
(610) 420-6971 (mobile)
(502) 635-4712 (office)
Kevin.Kerstein@KyDerby.com

TOM'S d'ETAT PUTS IN MAJOR WORK PRIOR TO STEPHEN FOSTER

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Saturday, June 6, 2020) – G M B Racing's Grade I winner **Tom's d'Etat** continued his preparation toward the Grade II, \$500,000 Stephen Foster with a strong six-furlong move in 1:12.80 Saturday morning at Churchill Downs.

"The most incredible thing about his work this morning was it hardly looked like he even did anything but he just cruised out there," trainer **Al. Stall Jr.** said. "Now, he's back in his stall and doesn't even seemed like any of it phased him one bit."

Tom's d'Etat will enter the June 27 Stephen Foster with stakes victories in four of his last five races including a 3 1/4-length victory in last year's \$600,000 Clark (GI). The 7-year-old son of Smart Strike worked in company Saturday morning with 3-year-old **Sharecropper** (five furlongs, 1:00.80) and sailed past his stablemate at the wire. Tom's d'Etat continued his work around the clubhouse turn for a final six-furlong drill.

"He has a history of running well off layoffs," Stall said. "He's never really left form even after he was freshened at Fair Grounds this winter when we were getting him ready for the second half of the year. We are right on schedule with him. We had talked about the (one-mile) Blame as a prep but when the schedule was shuffled around, we just decided to stick with the plan to run him in the Foster. We originally targeted the Ben Ali on April 11 at Keeneland but after that was canceled we were fortunate enough to run on April 11 in a short-stretch one-mile race at Oaklawn (\$150,000 Oaklawn Mile).

"One thing about it, we have a laid-back, ready horse. I'm not worried about how he's going to show up for the Foster as long as he continues to train as he's been doing all along. This race should feed us into the rest of the year with him. For the last two years, he's had solid training and a wonderful foundation beneath him. He's finally been able to get into form and show that."

Nominations for the Stephen Foster, a Breeder's Cup "Win and You're In Classic Division" race, close Saturday, June 13. The day of racing will feature a trio of other stakes events: the \$200,000 Fleur de Lis (GII) which is a Breeders' Cup "Win and You're In Distaff Division" race; the \$100,000 Regret (GIII) for 3-year-old fillies at 1 1/8 miles on turf; and the \$100,000 Bashford Manor (GIII) for 2-year-olds at six furlongs. Unlike previous years, the Stephen Foster card will be run during the day and have a first post of 1 p.m.

Another likely contender for the Stephen Foster is \$100,000 Blame Stakes winner **Owendale** who worked an easy half-mile in :51.40 Saturday morning at Churchill Downs for **Rupp Racing** and trainer **Brad Cox**.

CHURCHILL DOWNS JOCKEYS DONATE GOGGLES TO HEATHCARE WORKERS – Several jockeys at Churchill Downs have collaborated with the organization **Goggles for Docs** to donate goggles to healthcare workers for protection as they treat COVID-19 patients around the country.

Goggles for Docs has collected more than 45,000 pairs of goggles. The organization prefers, in some instances, jockey goggles because they are small, lightweight and can fit underneath face shields. Jockeys at Gulfstream Park in South Florida began the collection of gently used or new goggles. At Churchill Downs, jockey **Tyler Gaffalione** has spearheaded the charge gathering goggles from fellow riders. So far, 50 pairs of goggles were sent to New York Presbyterian Lawrence hospital and 50 pairs were sent to Priority One Ambulance in New York.

For more information about Goggles for Docs, visit www.gogglesfordocs.com.

TV SCHEDULE THIS WEEK – The racing action from Churchill Downs Racetrack throughout the 2020 Spring Meet will be broadcast on FOX Sports' "America's Day at the Races," which will air every race day on either FS1 or FS2.

Saturday, June 6

2:30 – 3:00 p.m. (FS2)

3:00 – 8:00 p.m. (FS1)

1:00 – 7:00 p.m. (MSG+)

3:00 – 7:00 p.m. (FOX Sports Ohio)

Sunday, June 7

1:00 – 2:00 p.m. (FS2)

2:00 – 6:00 p.m. (FS1)

1:00 – 6:00 p.m. (MSG+)

OWNERS MAY WATCH THEIR HORSES RACE – The Commonwealth of Kentucky gave Churchill Downs approval late Friday afternoon to allow owners with a horse running on the Churchill Downs program to attend for their race. Space is limited to one licensed owner and a guest per horse. For more information, visit <https://www.churchilldowns.com/horsemen/info/hospitality>.

DOWN THE STRETCH – Racing continued Saturday at Churchill Downs with a first post of 1 p.m. There was a \$175,666 carryover in the 20-cent Single 6 Jackpot in Races 4-9. ... Hall of Famer **Steve Asmussen** was two wins behind **Dale Romans** for the all-time leading trainer at Churchill Downs, 737-735 wins. Asmussen had four horses entered while Romans' had two. ... The podcast of "Inside Churchill Downs", which featured trainer **Al Stall Jr.**, is available here: <https://soundcloud.com/user-204761944/inside-churchill-downs-with-derbymedia-horseracingkk-and-scottshap34-6-5-20>.

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